An Earneſt

EXHORTATION

TO

Houſe-Keepers,

To ſet up the Worſhip of GOD in their Families.

WITH

Daily Prayers for Morning and Evening.

The Fourth Edition.

LONDON,

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BRITISH MUSEUM

An Earneſt

EXHORTATION

TO

Houſe-Keepers.

To the Parents and Maſters of Families.

THE great Decay of *Piety* in this corrupt and degenerate Age, is very much owing to the ſhameful Neglect of many Parents and Maſters, in not inſtructing their Chld ren, and thoſe under their Charge, in the Principles of Religion. Were

Childrens Minds early ſeaſoned with the main Points of Chriſtianity, and were they and Servants rightly informed in their Duty towards *God*, their *Neighbour*, and *themſelves*, much of that *Lewdneſs* and *Debauchery*, which we groan under, and ſtill complain of, would vaniſh and diſappear. I beg you therefore, as you value your own Souls, and the Souls of thoſe committed to your Charge; as you have any Conſideration for the Publick Good, or Concern for the Proſperity of your own Families, that you would uſe your beſt Endeavours to bring up your Children in the Fear and Nurture of the Lord, and to make your Servants God's Servants.

You are obliged to this both from Duty and Intereſt; for the Power and Authority God has given you over others, is a Talent entruſted with you for their Good; and you muſt certainly give a ſtrict Account at the Day of Judgment, what Uſe you have made of it, and how you have exerciſed it.

Beſides, by inſtilling Virtue and Piety into your Children and Servants, you

you take the beſt Method to ſecure the Obedience and Tractableneſs of your Children, and the Diligence and Fidelity of your Servants. For, when all is done, the Duties of mutual Relation ſtand moſt firm upon Principles of Religion.

Let it be your Care therefore, that your Children be taught to read, and then to learn the *Church Catechiſm*, with ſome ſhort Prayers for Morning and Evening, which you muſt oblige them conſtantly to uſe. Be very ſevere with them if they tell Lies, or betake themſelves to pilfering Tricks, or lightly uſe the Name of God, eſpecially if they ſwear by that Sacred Name, or offend againſt Modeſty, by any filthy or obſcene Words or Actions. Your Authority ought to influence and reſtrain them, till their Reaſon can diſcover the Advantages of Piety, and the Folly and Ingratitude of ſinning againſt God, and breaking his holy Commandments. Indulgence in theſe Caſes may be of fatal Conſequence; for by letting the Reins of Government hang looſe, Children will abandon themſelves to the

Conduct of their Paſſions, which they are moſt inclined to follow; and you will quickly repent that Fondneſs which, by dear-bought Experience, will be found to have ruin'd your Children. Never omit carrying them with you to Church on the Lord's-Day, and ſee that they behave themſelves reverently at the Publick Worſhip. But what I chiefly deſigned to recommend to you at preſent was, to ſet up *the Worſhip of God in your Families*, by the conſtant performing of Morning and Evening Prayer, and by reading a Pſalm and Chapter in the New Teſtament, before you begin that holy Exerciſe. This will be the beſt Means to preſerve a Senſe and Spirit of Religion in your Families: By this Method they will be conſtantly put in mind of their Duty; for the Matter of it is contained in ſuch Prayers; and what we ask of God, we are obliged to uſe our utmoſt Endeavours to obtain: And upon this Condition, God promiſes the Influences of his Grace, which (provided we do our beſt) will always be ready to aſſiſt and ſtrengthen us in the doing and ſuffering his holy Will. There

There are many Helps to this Purpoſe in ſeveral Books; but for fear none of them may have come to your Hands, I thought fit to make this Proviſion for you by its ſelf. If you, or any one in the Family, can read, let him or her take the *Bible*, and gravely read a *Pſalm* and *Chapter* in the *New Teſtament*, and then diſtinctly and reverently on your Knees offer up the following *Prayers* to *Almighty God*. And whatever Objections you may have, as to your Worldly Affairs, in a Morning; I am ſure in the Evening you have Leiſure enough for this Purpoſe. Let your Children get by Heart the two Prayers that are added for them; and ſtand by them ſometimes, that they may learn to pray ſeriouſly and devoutly. When they are of a fit Age, go with them to your Miniſter, and deſire him to prepare them for Confirmation, and afterwards for receiving the bleſſed Sacrament.

A Morning Prayer for a Family.

GREAT and Glorious Lord God! we pray Thee to look down from Heaven, the Habitation of thy Holineſs, and thy Glory, upon us vile and ſinful Creatures. Have Mercy upon us, O Lord, and *according to the Multitude of thy tender Mercies, blot out all our Tranſgreſſions:* And do Thou keep it for ever in the Purpoſe and Reſolution of our Hearts, to ſerve and fear Thee for the future, and to keep all thy Commandments always, that it may be well with us for ever. We pray Thee, to this end, to write thy Laws in our Hearts, and to put thy Fear into our inward Parts, that we may never depart from Thee.

Grant us the Grace of thy Holy Spirit, to become every Day better; to reform and amend whatever is amiſs in the Frame and Temper of our Minds, or in the Courſe and Actions of our Lives; to enable us to mortifie our Luſts, to govern our Paſſions, and to order our whole Converſation aright; to

to aſſiſt us in all that is good; to keep us from all Evil, and to preſerve us to thy heavenly Kingdom. We pray Thee to inſtruct us in all the Particulars of our Duty, which we owe to Thee and our Neighbour: *That we may herein exerciſe our ſelves always to have Conſciences void of Offence both towards God and towards Man*; that we may love Thee, the Lord our God, with all our Hearts, with all our Souls, and with all our Strength, and may love our Neighbour as our ſelves; and whatever we would that Men ſhould do unto us, that we may do likewiſe unto them.

And let the Grace of God, which hath appeared unto all Men, and brings Salvation, teach us, that *denying Ungodlineſs and worldly Luſts, we may live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly, in this preſent World, waiting for the bleſſed Hope and glorious Appearance of the great God and our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, who gave himſelf for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, and purify unto himſelf a peculiar People, zealous of good Works.*

And we pray Thee make us ſenſible of our own Frailty, of the Shortneſs

and Uncertainty of this Life, and of the Eternity of the next; to make us careful ſo to live, as we ſhall wiſh we had done when we come to die. Let our Loyns always be girded about, and our Lamps burning, and we our ſelves like unto Men that wait for their Lord.

Extend thy Goodneſs to the whole World; let thy Way be known upon Earth, and thy ſaving Health among all Nations. Bleſs, we pray Thee, our Governours in Church and State, make them uſeful and ſerviceable to thy Glory, and the publick Good. We implore thy Mercy in behalf of our Relations, Friends, and Benefactors; forgive our Enemies, and teach us to do Good unto them.

We offer unto Thee our hearty Praiſes for all thy Mercies beſtowed upon us from time to time; for making us Chriſtians; for preſerving us this Night paſt, and the reſt of our Lives, from innumerable Accidents and Dangers. Let all thy loving Kindneſs have this Effect upon us, to make us better, and to lead us to Repentance. And all we beg for Jeſus Chriſt his ſake; in whoſe bleſſed

bleſſed Name and Words we conclude our imperfect Prayers, ſaying, *Our Father*, &c.

May the Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the Love of God, and the Fellowſhip of the Holy Ghoſt, be with us this Day, and evermore. *Amen.*

Evening Prayer for a Family.

O God, who art the Giver of all good Gifts, and the Father of Mercies, we, thine unworthy Servants, entirely deſire to praiſe thy Name for all the Expreſſions of thy Bounty towards us. Bleſſed be thy Love, that gave thy Son to die for our Sins, to put us in a Way of being happy, if we would obey Thee; and after all the wilful Refuſals of thy Grace, ſtill haſt Patience with us, and haſt added this one Day more to all we have miſ-ſpent already, to ſee if we would finiſh the Work Thou haſt ſet us to do, and fit our ſelves for eternal Glory.

Pardon,

Pardon, good Lord! all our former Sins, and all our Abuſes of thy Forbearance; for which we are now ſorry at our Hearts. And give us Grace to lead more holy Lives, and to be more careful in improving all future Opportunities. Make thy ſelf preſent to our Minds, and let thy Love and Fear rule in our Souls in all Places, and upon all Occaſions.

Keep us chaſt in all our Thoughts, temperate in all our Enjoyments; humble in all our Opinions of our ſelves; charitable in all our Speeches of others; meek and peaceable under all Provocations; ſincere and faithful in all our Profeſſions; and ſo juſt and upright in all our Dealings, that no Neceſſity may force, nor Opportunity in any kind allure us to defraud, or go beyond our Neighbours.

When Thou beſtoweſt Good on others, let us not envy, but rejoice in it; and when Thou addeſt any to our ſelves, let us own thy Mercy, and humbly thank Thee for it. Afford us convenient Supplies in all our reaſonable Neceſſities, and protect us againſt the Approach of all

all Dangers; make us diligent in all our Buſineſs, and give ſuch Succeſs to our Endeavours, as Thou ſeeſt moſt expedient for us.

Teach us contentedly to ſubmit, and not to repine at any thing that comes upon us, by the Alotment of thy wiſe Providence. And whilſt we are in this World, and have manifold Concerns in it, ſuffer not our Hearts to be too much ſet upon it, but always fix our Eye upon the bleſſed Hope of things above. And we pray Thee make all the things of this World miniſter to it; and make us careful above all things to fit our Souls for that pure and perfect Bliſs, which Thou haſt prepared for all that love and fear Thee, in the Glories of thy Kingdom.

Charge thy holy Providence with us this Night; make our Sleep ſafe and refreſhing to us. Fit us for our great Change, that it may not ſurprize us unawares; but that having led holy Lives, we may be happy in our Deaths, and have Comfort and well grounded Hope in Thee.

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Extend thy Grace to all Men in all Places; to our Governours both in Church and State; to High and Low, Rich and Poor; to all that pray for it, or need it in theſe Kingdoms. Bleſs all our Friends, Relations, and Benefactors. Forgive our Enemies, give them Hearts to fear Thee, and to be reconciled to us. Supply all us, and all others, with whatſoever Thou ſeeſt proper for us, for Chriſt his Sake: In whoſe bleſſed Name and Words we ſtill recommend our ſelves unto Thee, ſaying, *Our Father*, &c.

May the Grace of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the Love of God, and the Fellowſhip of the Holy Ghoſt, be with us all this Night, and evermore. *Amen.*

A Morning Prayer for a Child.

GLORY be to Thee, O Lord! for all the Bleſſings I daily receive from Thee; for thy particular Preſervation and Refreſhment of me this Night paſt.

Teach

Teach me to believe in Thee; to fear Thee, and love Thee with all my Heart; to worſhip Thee, and give Thee Thanks; to honour thy holy Name, and to ſerve Thee truly all the Days of my Life.

Make me to love my Neighbour as my ſelf; and to do to all Men as I would they ſhould do to me. Make me obedient to my Parents, and all my Governours in Church and State.

Grant, O Lord! that I may order my ſelf lowly and reverently to all my Betters; that I may hurt no Body by Word or Deed; that I may keep my Hands from Picking and Stealing, and my Tongue from Evil-ſpeaking, Lying, and Slandering; that I may demean my ſelf with Temperance, and Sobriety, and Chaſtity; that I may never covet or deſire other Mens Goods, but learn and labour truly to get my own Living, and to do my Duty in that State of Life unto which it ſhall pleaſe Thee, O Lord, to call me. And all this I beg for the Merits of Jeſus my Saviour. In whoſe holy Words I ſum up all my Wants, ſaying, *Our Father*, &c.

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An Evening Prayer for a Child.

O Lord God, my Heavenly Father, I humbly implore the Pardon and Forgiveneſs of all the Sins I have committed this Day, either in Thought, Word, or Deed. Cleanſe me from all my Wickedneſs, and ſtrengthen my Weakneſs, that I may overcome all the Temptations that daily ſurround me.

Aſſiſt me, good Lord, by thy Grace, that I may worſhip Thee, ſerve Thee, and obey Thee, as I ought to do. Supply me with all things needful while I live in this World, and fit and prepare my Soul for the Happineſs of the next. Make me to avoid all Occaſions of offending Thee; and ſuffer me not to be tempted above what I am able; but defend me in all Dangers both of Body and Soul; keep me eſpecially from Sin and Wickedneſs, and from everlaſting Death.

I commend to thy Divine Providence (*my Father and Mother, Brothers and Siſters,*) all my Friends and Relations. Vouchſafe them all thoſe Graces and Bleſſings

Bleſſings Thou knoweſt moſt ſuitable for them.

O Thou that never ſlumbereſt nor ſleepeſt, watch over me this Night, and refreſh me with ſeaſonable Reſt, that I may riſe the next Morning more fit for thy Service.

I return, O Lord, to Thee all Praiſe and Thankſgiving, for all thoſe Mercies which Thou haſt this Day beſtowed upon me. As long as I live let me praiſe the Lord; as long as I have any Being, let me magnify thy holy Name. Hear my Prayers, and accept of my Praiſes, for the Sake of my Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. In whoſe holy Words I ſum up all my Wants, *Our Father*, &c.

A Prayer for a Servant.

O Lord God Almighty, whoſe Loving-kindneſs is better than Life, and whoſe Service is perfect Freedom: It is the wiſe Appointment of thy Providence, that there ſhould be various Orders and Degrees of Men, and that

I ſhould be diſpoſed of in the Station where now I am. O Lord, I humbly ſubmit to thy good Pleaſure, and deſire, with Content and Thankfulneſs, to accept of my Portion, how low and mean ſoever in the World. If my Bleſſed Redeemer, who is Lord of all, would *take upon him the Form of a Servant*, for our Sakes; O! why ſhould I refuſe to be a Servant to others? If I faithfully diſcharge the Duties of my Place, I know I ſhall be as acceptable to my God as any that enjoy the higheſt Station. If I be found in the Way of Righteouſneſs, I ſhall be exalted in due time, however abaſed for the preſent. O let it not be ſo much my Care to get higher in the World, as to get more in thy Favour, wherein is Life. Suffer me not to be a Servant of Sin, or a Slave to any Luſt; but grant me to enjoy the bleſſed Liberty wherewith Chriſt Jeſus hath ſet us free, that I may ſerve Thee, my God, faithfully, and run the Way of thy Commandments with an enlarged Heart. Be Thou pleaſed, O Lord, to fit me for, and teach and aſſiſt me in the Service to which I am called,

called, that I may perform it to the Glory of thy great Name, to the Satisfaction of thoſe whom I ſerve, and to my own Advantage and Comfort. Make me true and faithful, careful and diligent, humble and obedient, doing the Buſineſs of my Place, not with *Eye Service, as a Man-pleaſer, but in Singleneſs of Heart, fearing God.* Teach me to deny my ſelf, to be meek and patient, *not anſwering again* to ſtir up Wrath, but with Silence and Submiſſion following the Things that make for Peace. Suffer me not to wrong or cheat my Maſter, or do him any Damage for my own filthy Lucre, or fleſhly Pleaſure, that I may be found faithful in the Sight of my God, who evermore ſeeth in ſecret, and ſearcheth the very Heart. Whoſe Servant ſoever elſe I am, O Lord, let me ever be found in the Number of Thine; and make me, I beſeech Thee, ſuch every Way towards Thee, that Thou mayeſt mercifully accept me, and all my Services. Pardon and forgive all the Sins of my Life paſt, and grant me the Aſſiſtance of thy Grace and Holy Spirit, that I may ſerve Thee

faithfully in this World, and at laſt be received into thy eternal Kingdom, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, who has taught us when we pray to ſay, *Our Father*, &c.

Grace before Meat.

WE acknowledge thy Goodneſs, O Lord, in making this Proviſion for us. Bleſs us with a thankful Uſe of theſe thy Creatures, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace after Meat.

BLeſſed by thy holy Name, O Lord! for ſupplying us with the Neceſſaries of Life. Let the Strength and Nouriſhment we receive, be imployed to thy Honour and Glory, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. *Amen.*

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